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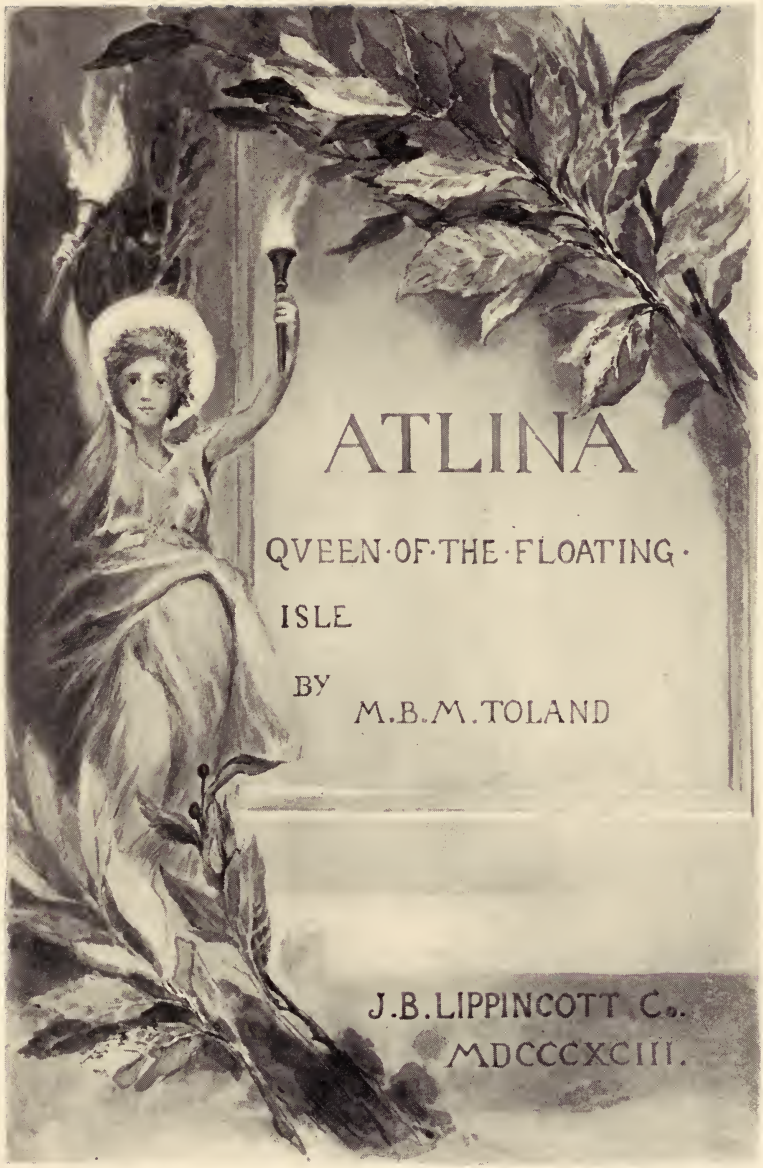

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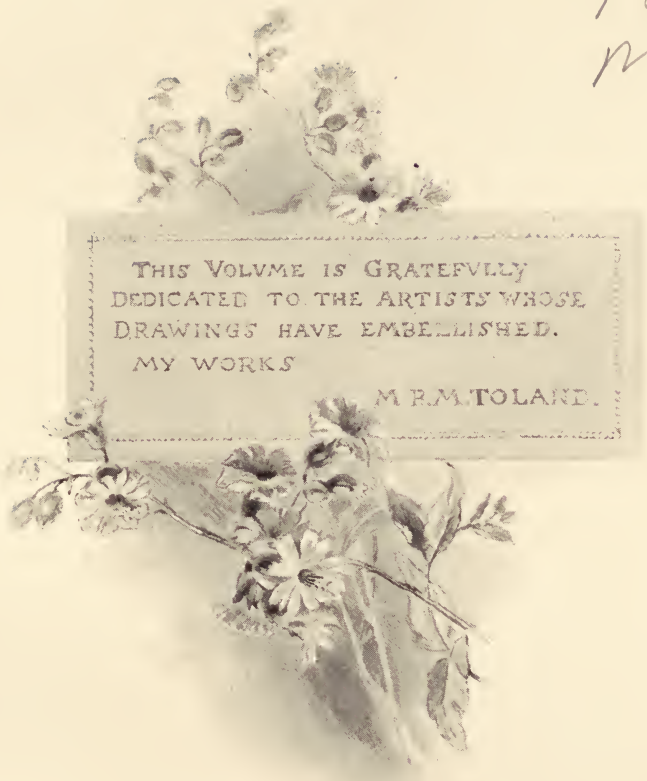

"Where stately palms and tropic plants unfurled" . *Canto I., Stanza 2*

Artist, H. R. Bloomer.

"Each year fruit-offerings by them were brought" . *Canto I., Stanza 5*

Artist, J. Alden Weir.

"One hundred Nereids on dolphins rode" . . *Canto I., Stanza 7*

Artist, F. S. Church.

"A pious family protected, saved" . . . . *Canto II., Stanza 1*

Artist, Frederick Dielman.

"O'er sea and land in glorious array" . . . *Canto II., Stanza 3*

Artist, Francis C. Jones.

"Enthroned in regal state the youthful queen". . *Canto II*, *Stanza 7*

Artist, A. F. Jaccaci.

"Atlina listened with a pleased surprise" . . . *Canto II.*, *Stanza 8*

Artist, Herbert Denman.

"All nature beamed with beauties unsurpassed" . *Canto III.*, *Stanza 1*

Artist, A. F. Jaccaci.

"Atlina with Diotheus reclined" . . . . *Canto III.*, *Stanza 4*

Artist, F. V. Du Mond.

"Of Floating Isle in tropic beauties dressed" . . *Canto III.*, *Stanza 7*

Artist, J. H. Twachtman.

Ornamental title-page, frontispiece, half-titles to the Cantos, and decorative designs throughout the text,

Artist, A. F. Jaccaci.

CANTO I

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Ages ago, Atlantis proudly swayed
Her prehistoric glories, unsurpassed;
The God Posei'don, regally arrayed,
With trident sceptre, mystic marvels cast
O'er that strange continent.
His power supreme
Enriched the earth with wondrous splendors grand,
Enthroned to rule and realize the dream
Of fabled mysteries o'er sea and land.
So reigned this Neptune king with will profound
As o'er a world.
Virtues he there enshrined
With wisdom, justice, truth, and laws renowned
That good-will meted unto all mankind.

II.

Transcendent beauties brightly beamed upon
The fertile plain, fairest of all the world;
Near which a mount uprose above the lawn,
Where stately palms and tropic plants unfurled
'Neath sunshine flooding its life-giving rays
O'er budding blossoms, blooming everywhere.
There fountains jetted iridescent sprays
Near groves of stately trees,—exotics rare;
While streams meandered and fresh bubbling springs
Of purest waters fertilized the sod,
And breathing zephyrs wafted as with wings
Sweet, odorous incense offered to their God.

H. R. Bloomer

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III.

Upon this mount dwelt one primeval pair.
Their only child, a daughter scarcely grown,
In dawning womanhood was wondrous fair.
When her fond parents died, leaving alone
This lovely orphan (Cleito was her name),
Poseidon met her, pleased with her pure grace,
He elevated to exalted fame
One made by nature worthy of that place.
His heart idealized this mortal love.
Around her palace he alternately
Drew two encircling zones,—of land above,—
Grand terraces. Three smaller zones of sea
Enclosed the citadel of destiny.

IV.

No man could enter that enchanted spot,—
Himself a god, his wishes naught could mar;
All rarest treasures to the isle he brought
That beamed in beauty like a brilliant star;
For in the rocks all precious gems were found;
With purest gold and silver, veins of ore
There threaded through. The mount, within, around,
With richest offerings that nature bore.
Three walls enclosed the isle:
An outer wall
Coated with brass; the next with tin o'erlaid;
The next of ori'chalch; glowing through all
Red lights that blazed warm flashes as they played.

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V.

'Tween citadel and palace stately stood
A holy temple, in the centre, where
Poseidon with his Cleito blessings wooed
In bliss divine, the joys of life to share;
Each year fruit-offerings by them were brought
From ten divisions of that wondrous isle
As sacred sacrifice.
On hallowed spot
Poseidon's own fane stood in grandest style,—
Barbaric splendor, stadium in length
With half a stadium in width.
Its height
Proportionate, throughout of massive strength,
Aglow with brilliant gems emitting light.

VI.

This edifice in silver was encased,
With pinnacles bestudded, gleaming gold:
An ivory roof within, its borders graced
By royal decorations, sunbeam stoled.
Shimmered forth from the pillars, walls, and floor
Bedazzling rays of every precious gem
That flashed with glowing lights the arches o'er.
Poseidon's statue, crowned with diadem,
In regal robes upon his chariot stood,
With six winged horses, thus in state to guide
His flying steed.
Ruler divine, endued
With power supreme o'er all things to preside.

J. SCHURER

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VII.

One hundred Nereids on dolphins rode
As if ambassadors from the deep sea;
Colossal golden statues brightly glowed
Around the altar of their deity;
Engraved on columned orichalch that stood
Within the temple, holy laws were given
To teach the right, commanding all things good
Through virtue's path, to make this world like heaven.
Outside the temple rose ten golden kings,
Ten golden statues of their wives in state,
With many tributes, sacred offerings,
Impressive rites whence glories radiate.

VIII.

Thus many generations passed away
Since God Poseidon's first-born reigned as king.
His wise descendants aided the display
Of peerless pageantry the years could bring.
Supremacy to Atlas' line was shown,
With binding rule on all the kings impressed;
No wars to join against each other's throne,
But render aid, if enemies oppressed;
Vast multitudes inhabited the land,
Thousands of chariots for war arrayed,
Twelve hundred ships awaited their command,
With officers and honors grand displayed.

IX.

While god-like nature lasted in that race
To laws divine obedience was given,
With true devotion to their gods in grace
As children taught inheritance of heaven;
The Gold and Silver Ages having passed,
Then Bronze Age followed, scattering the seed
Of discord, avarice, with sins o'ercast,
Admixture more of human, selfish greed.
Lost were the virtues of Poseidon's reign,
Then Zeus, the God of gods, with will supreme,
Called all the gods, his mandate to make plain,
To judge with justice, and lost rights redeem.

CANTO II

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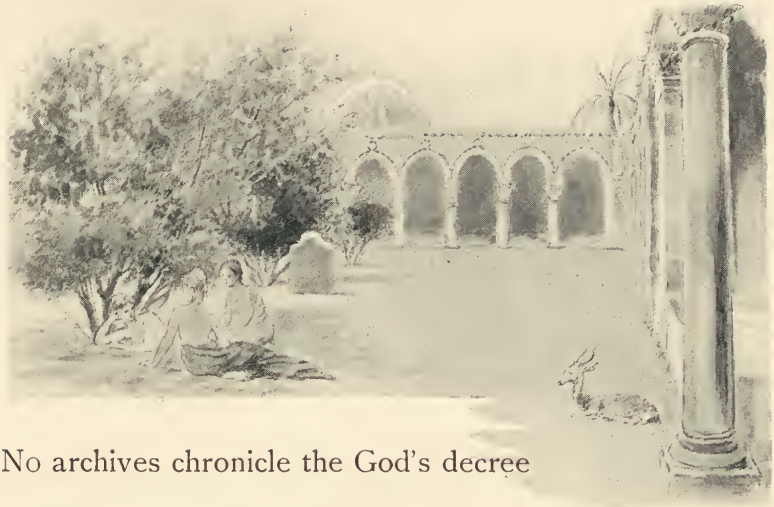

No archives chronicle the God's decree
That doomed Atlantis to its sudden fate,
By tempest torn and sunk beneath the sea,
Their mortal sins to thus obliterate;
One portion of the land eruptions cleft
Just as it stood, with sacred temples, throne,
And royal palace, all that had been left
Of grandest continent the world had known.
A pious family protected, saved
With their attendants faithful cast away,
On this wrecked isle the many dangers braved
By guardian care, on that eventful day.

FREDERICK DIELMAN

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II.

While these were offering orisons that morn,
Fierce, warring elements in fury hurled
The earth, that lifted, trembled, then was torn
Asunder from that cursed and sinking world.
Prostrate before the altar they remained,
Until was heard a voice from one unseen,
"Thy godliness and virtues pure have gained
Pardon for thee and thine. As shall be seen
From guardian care, all good will emulate,
This holy isle for thee is saved and blessed,
Thy heirs shall reign as kings, and reinstate
Poseidon's line, as God Zeus thinketh best."

III.

This godly family had one fair child,
A daughter, beaming love and fond delight
And wondrous beauty as she sweetly smiled,
While shimmered o'er her brow soft halos bright,
Through airy tresses, like warm rays of gold,
That flowed in careless waves around her form.
Her large blue eyes would evening's shade enfold,
Her cheeks, the sea-shell's tint, with blushes warm.
No fairer mortal maiden ere was seen;
Her charms of manner bore a winsome way.
Crowned was she on the Floating Isle as queen
O'er sea and land in glorious array.

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IV.

Her palace pearled with golden settings rare,
Its temples blending treasures of all climes;
Her bowers were draped with climbing flowers fair
O'er gleaming domes that measured music's chimes;
Her Nereid attendants served with love;
They hovered near the Floating Isle with pride
On dolphins, their devotion thus to prove,
Played timbrels, dancing on the rippling tide;
Her parents in their temple offered praise,
Gave thanks to Zeus with offerings and prayer;
They taught Atlina's life pure, holy ways
To thus repay the gods for guardian care.

V.

Atlina just attained her womanhood,
With voice like angel's voice, soft, low, and sweet;
And speaking glances.
Thoughts were understood
Ere spoken, if the listener chanced to meet
Their trusting light from soul of purity.
Last heiress of lost kings was she, this isle,
Her only heritage, World of the Sea,
That meted glorious destiny! Meanwhile
Her subjects wished their lovely queen to wed
A god-like king. They made their wishes known,
And often to the subject pleading led
That heirs of Atlas' line might grace her throne.

VI.

With joy the Nereids appeared one morn
Arrayed in mantles of fair sprays of mist,
Their ruddy shoulders lightly to adorn.
Atlina's hand devotedly they kissed,
And signalled galleys, coming near the shore
Upon the ocean's brightly beaming breast
So near the isle, a voice in clear command
Cried, "Lower sails!
Drop anchor! Here we rest!
This is the world we've sought so long in vain,
How wondrous beautiful, this heavenly sphere,
Deus has our labors blessed!
'Tis glory's gain;
This blissful haven offers royal cheer."

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VII.

Enthroned in regal state the youthful queen
Awaited the approach of strangers grand,
Enrobed most gorgeously, as if to wean
Her thoughts from all except a queen's command;
Yet flitting blushes warmed the cold repose
Of stately dignity. Her scarf confined
By opal stars, their tints like fair rainbows
That shimmered halos, happiness enshrined;
As come the heralds, with their god-like king,
He knelt before her, conquered.
Beauty's power
Enhanced the scene. The sprites were welcoming
With timbrel shells and song, that happy hour.

VIII.

Atlina listened with a pleased surprise
To courtly compliments, profusely paid,
Awaking glances, beamed from dreamy eyes,
O'er dimpling smiles where flitting blushes played;
While spake Diotheus fond words of praise:
He thanked the gods who his adventures blessed,
That from a sinking world the isle released,
And guided him to this fair land of rest
To realize a love, his heart to feast:
"My ships lie waiting for my precious prize
To bear in triumph to my favored throne,
My kingdom waits, where dips the eastern skies,
A goddess queen, for every virtue known."

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IX.

At once she sought the temple to confide
Her new found happiness.
With fond caress
She coyly knelt her father's knee beside,
With warmest blushes new life to confess;
He answered rising, with uplifted hand:
"Obedience is due the gods' decree!
Thy duty, child, must follow their command,
Their sacred will thus metes thy destiny."
The mother's arms enclasped her daughter's waist,
"Child of our love! thanks to the gods divine
Who taught thee love with true devotion graced,
Our happiness reflects this joy of thine."

CANTO III

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All nature beamed with beauties unsurpassed,
The sun in glory showered dazzling rays
And banished shadows; not a cloud o'ercast
That nuptial morn, hailed with exalted praise.
Awaking zephyrs trilled a flitting breeze;
Sweet carols sang wild birds in gladsome glee;
Æolians were sighing through the trees
With joy and sadness, varied melody.
The Floating Isle, nestled its border bowers
Of tropic plants, wafting perfumes full sweet,
From countless cups of all its precious flowers
Which incense offered, odorous, replete.

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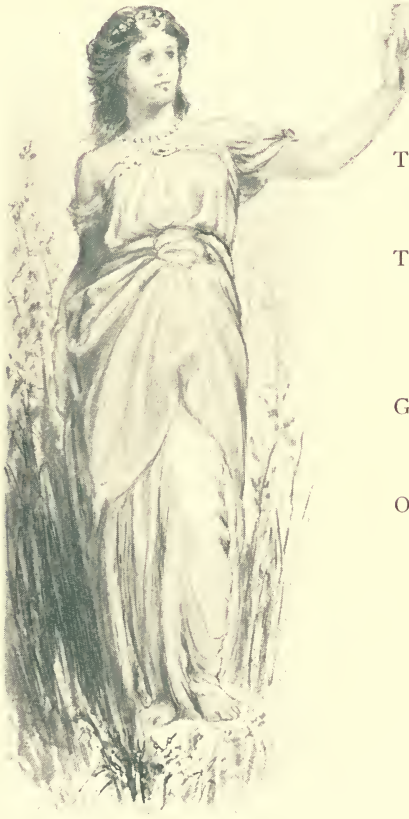
II.

Directed by the gods, Diotheus left
Aurosa Greece (his kingdom)—journeyed o'er
The inland seas, seeking that portion cleft
From doomed Atlantis.
Near southwestern shore
Of broad Atlantic main, he found the isle,
Its goddess queen, to grace his Grecian throne,
Won by her loveliness. Sweet was her smile
With happiness, to him before unknown.
Atlina donned the graceful Grecian gown,
Pure as the pearling dew born of the air:
Her every wish with joy the king to crown,
Through life his love to keep and ever share.

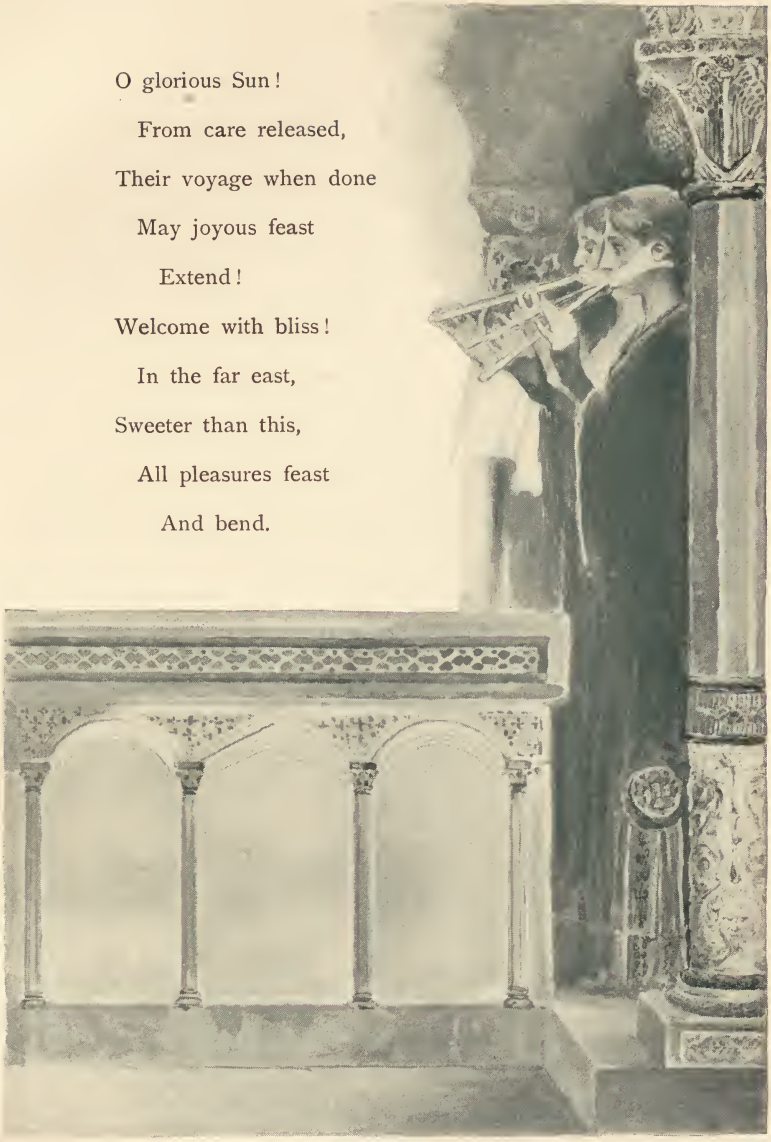
III.

Lifted were anchors, sails unfurled, outspread,
The fleet unmoored, ready to sail away,
When fond attendants stately measures led:
An invocation to the God of day.



Thou God! The sun!
O light of light!
Thou glorious one!
O radiance bright,
Divine!
Guard with thy care
With wisdom, might,
Our queen, to share
What seemeth right
As thine.

O glorious Sun!
From care released,
Their voyage when done
May joyous feast
Extend!
Welcome with bliss!
In the far east,
Sweeter than this,
All pleasures feast
And bend.



IV.

Atlina with Diotheus reclined
'Neath gleaming canopy of threaded gold,
Begemmed with crest of double crowns, entwined
That fond predictions for their future told.
The god-like king, of stately presence grand,
His massive brow alight with new-found bliss,
Was hero of victorious command;
But conquered worlds could not compare with this.
His classic features, perfectly were lined;
His earnest eyes of evening's darkest shade,
His beard and raven locks flowed, waved, entwined
And shimmered raven lights, where sunbeams strayed.

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V.

Then floated banners, with a loud acclaim
Of oarsmen measuring each deep-drawn stroke,
While tearful voices sighed Atlina's name
Amid the pageantry, farewells awoke.
Thus glided they o'er ocean's throbbing breast,
The groom and bride guarded from every ill.
When Floating Isle receded on the west,
Atlina's heart was pained with saddened thrill;
Diotheus fond words repressed to wean
Her heart from yearning thoughts with better cheer;
Such silent sympathy impressed his queen
With warmer gratitude to one most dear.

VI.

While lingering rays, reflected from sunbeams,
Bedecked the ocean's slowly-throbbing breast,
Its waves aglow, were rippling brightest gleams,
Ere evening shadows wooed the day to rest.
In mantled mist, the scenes dissolved away
With angel voices chantant on the air;
The mighty deep intoned its plashing spray,
While guardian dolphins hovered near with care.
The nautilus its stately measures bore
Like royal page—and glided gracefully
Beside the galleys, dipped the waters o'er
In unison with songs of air and sea.

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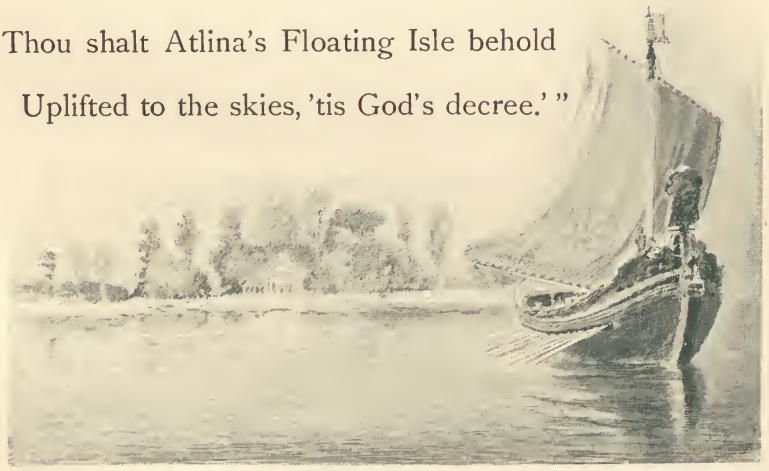
VII.

The day was blushing, as approaching night
Unfurled its glowing colors in the west,
When lo! a mirage, framed with ruby light,
Of Floating Isle in tropic beauties dressed
Above the low horizon lifted there,
With halos, lingering rays of setting sun:
Its sacred temples pictured in air
That mystic hour when day its course hath run.
"See!" cried Diotheus, "my dreams unfold;
This scene the gods predicted unto me:
'Thou shalt Atlina's Floating Isle behold
Uplifted to the skies, 'tis God's decree.'"



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